

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 1-30 stand rejected and claim 31 stands objected to. By virtue of this response, no claims have been cancelled, claim 24 has been amended, and claims 32-36 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-36 are currently under consideration. Claim 24 has been amended to add clarity, and new claims 32-36 are supported throughout the present application, e.g., paragraphs [0027] to [0030] and the claims as originally presented. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Cancellation and amendment of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication or abandonment of any unclaimed subject matter by Applicants, and moreover Applicants have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any subject matter in continuation applications.

Applicants appreciate the telephone message from the Examiner indicating the correct patent number of the reference used in the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection, i.e., 5,959,866, and not 5,949,866 as indicated with the Notice of References Cited. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner include the correct patent number on the Notice of References Cited.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanaoka et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,959,866 (hereinafter "Hanaoka").

The Examiner states on page 2 of the Office Action, *inter alia*, that Hanaoka discloses:

...a media drive module 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d having a frame 12 configured to support a media drive 540, a power supply, and interface electronics (column 27, line 27 thru column 28, line 25); a library housing 2 having storage bins 15, 175, a mechanism 14 transferring storage devices; and openings for receiving media drive modules 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d (figure 8);...

(Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that Hanaoka fails to disclose or suggest “a media drive module having a frame configured to support a media drive, a power supply, and interface communication electronics,” as recited by claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that Hanaoka fails to disclose or suggest such a frame configured to support a power supply and interface communication electronics. The Examiner has failed to indicate what portion of Hanaoka discloses that drive unit 12 (having media drive modules 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d) includes a power supply as recited by claim 1. Further, the portion of Hanaoka asserted by the examiner as disclosing interface communication electronics (i.e., col. 27, line 27 to col. 28, line 25) does not disclose that interface communication electronics, e.g., a communication board separate from a drive, are indeed included within drive unit 12.

In contrast to the features of claim 1, Hanaoka discloses that “housing 4 contains a printed control board for controlling the cartridge access station 5, drum units 10a, 10b, and the drive units 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d and the two accessors 14.” (col. 7, lines 59-61). Further, Hanaoka discloses drive unit 12 is coupled to the reference cell unit 11 of library 2 (col. 11, lines 29-42) and that “reference cell unit 11... has built therein signal cables and connectors for transmitting power, a power sequence control signal and a drum control signal.” (col. 25, lines 39-44). Accordingly, Hanaoka does not disclose or suggest that drive unit 12 includes a power supply and interface communication electronics; rather, Hanaoka suggests such features are included in other portions of the library 2, e.g., reference cell unit 11 and/or housing 4.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Hanaoka does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn. Independent claims 13 and 24 include similar features as claim 1 relating to a power supply and interface communication electronics and are allowable over Hanaoka for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-30.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 31 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants submit herewith new claims 32-36 directed to features similar to the allowable subject matter of claim 31. Further, in light of the remarks herein, Applicants submit that claim 24 from which claim 31 depends is now in condition for allowance.

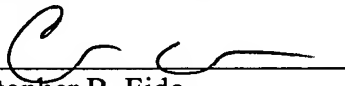
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 249212022400. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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